12/16/71

Dear Jim,

The successes and duration (3 weeks) ofmy recent trip have kept me busy since I got home, trying to complete note-making, catching up on the more important mail, etc. Thus I haven't had time to write and tell you how gratified those to whom you sent copies of your book were. Except Carr, who I did not see. Penn will give it to him.

Mary's eyes moistened with pleasure, and Penn didn't even call me a CIA agent to my face, so you can see they were happy, because you thought of them and because of the k ind inscriptions.

They and the others who then and since have inquired about your health are also glad to know that the prospect is you ll whip the hospital staph, about which nobody seemed to have known. And I hope that Jasper has responded as you thought likely.

On this trip I was able to develop a few new sources and to get new information already checked out from a few old ones. Some of it was surprising to me. For example, Shaw's people are serious about their civil suit. I had thought it a kind of threat in connection with the perjury charge. They were probably considering this all along. To that end they have apparently held back some of what they had developed. I would like to think that prior to any hearing in that action I will be able to know more of this and to be able to consider some of it in connection with other things I know or have in my files.

I have asked Lou Ivon for as complete a rundown on Lou Davis as he can give me. Busy as he seems still to be, I doubt he'll take time for it, but I think it serves every interest for him to find the time, for I know that the Department of Justice has had a special kind of interest in him and they appear to have a greater one in you! (I haven't seen the text of the indictment, but the story in the States-Item of the fourth tends to fortify the beliefs I have expressed earlier.) I know how busy you are and that you will not take the time to write a letter, but I hope you can find the time to borrow one of Ivon's cassette recorders and talk into it whatever you may know of Davis, other than that he supported you in the past, so that I may prepare as much as is possible, based upon what I have been told in confidence. Do you, for example, know if he has had connections with Leander Perez, fund-raising for Wallace, the sale of untraceable rifles to other extremists-racists, etc. Did you ever check out the reports of his disappearance at the time of the King assassination (I was then in New Orleans and heard these reports)?

In connection with your research into the war, you may be interested in Joe Goulden's Truth Is the First Casualty, recently available at the $1.00 remainder price, if you do not already have it. I have not yet seen Vince's speech, which I've heard described as brilliant by several. However, based on my very early work on this, which I described to you on our first meetings in early 1967, I remain convinced that calling the CIA good guys in this is an over-simplification. I do hope that before you write you will give this further thought. We are together so little there is never a real chance for a full exchange of thoughts. Their higher sophistication, greater guile, unrecognized flexibility may give a contrary appearance, but their basic objectives are unchanged.

Let us hope the coming year is a better one for all of us.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg